REMARKS

Claims 14-27 were previously pending in the application. This Amendment amends claims 14, 24, and 27. Claims 15-23 and 25-26 remain unchanged. Claims 14 and 27 are independent.

The Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

This Amendment encloses Replacement Sheet 2 of 3, including Replacement Figure 2 showing the location of the detail of FIG. 4, thereby obviating this objection. No new matter is added.

Regarding the module integration into the refrigerator, especially the wall component mating with the light assembly of the module, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to FIG. 6, which illustrates a cross-section of the light assembly.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

The Specification Objections

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities. This Amendment amends the specification to correct the informalities, thereby obviating this objection.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

The Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 14-26 because of informalities. This Amendment amends claims 14 to correct the informalities, thereby obviating these objections.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This Amendment amends independent claim 14 to clarify the features of the claimed invention, thereby overcoming this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 properly recites "fixed to the housing exterior," not fixed to the interior. See e.g., Fig. 1. Applicants respectfully submit that each of the claims, including claim 16, properly should be interpreted based on the language of the claims, and that additional subject matter should not improperly be introduced into the claims.

For at least these reasons, claim 16 is clear and definite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The Claimed Invention

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as recited by, for example, independent claim 14, is directed to a refrigeration appliance, comprising a carrier module located on the insulated housing; the carrier module including a control circuit for controlling the refrigerating capacity of the refrigeration appliance in said inner area depending on a temperature measuring signal related to the temperature in said inner area, at least one of an operating element for at least one of adjusting an operational parameter of said refrigeration appliance and a display element for displaying an operational parameter of said refrigeration appliance, and at least one illuminating agent for illuminating at least some of said inner area.

In conventional refrigeration appliance housings, the inner cavity commonly can be used to mount electronic parts that control the function of the refrigeration appliance. These electronic components must be connected electrically to a plurality of structural groups of the appliance, thereby increasing the costs to manufacture the appliance.

In stark contrast, the present invention provides a carrier module located on the insulated housing; the carrier module including a control circuit for controlling the refrigerating capacity of the refrigeration appliance in the inner area depending on a temperature measuring signal related to the temperature in the inner area, at least one of an operating element for at least one of adjusting an operational parameter of the refrigeration appliance and a display element for

displaying an operational parameter of the refrigeration appliance, and at least one illuminating agent for illuminating at least some of the inner area.

In this manner, the present invention provides a compact, integral arrangement of functional elements on a carrier module that allows assembly of the modules using time-saving large-scale production processes, and then insertion of the carrier module into by which the overall manufacture of a refrigeration appliance can be considerably simplified. The present invention can reduce the installation of supply lines for these functional elements through the insulating foam layer, reduce assembly time and manufacturing costs of the refrigeration appliance.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 14-17, 21, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Miozza et al reference (US 6,880,949).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Miozza et al reference very clearly does not disclose or suggest the features of the claimed invention including a carrier module located on the insulated housing, the carrier module including a control circuit for controlling the refrigerating capacity of the refrigeration appliance in the inner area depending on a temperature measuring signal related to the temperature in the inner area, at least one of an operating element for at

least one of adjusting an operational parameter of the refrigeration appliance and a display element for displaying an operational parameter of the refrigeration appliance, and at least one illuminating agent for illuminating at least some of the inner area, as recited in independent claim 14.

As explained above, these features are important for providing a compact, integral arrangement of functional elements on a carrier module that allows assembly of the modules using time-saving large-scale production processes, and then insertion of the carrier module into by which the overall manufacture of a refrigeration appliance can be considerably simplified. In this manner, the present invention can reduce the installation of supply lines for these functional elements through the insulating foam layer, reduce assembly time and manufacturing costs of the refrigeration appliance.

The Miozza et al reference very clearly does not teach or suggest these features. Instead, the Miozza et al reference merely discloses a quick chill and quick thaw pan mullion assembly 124 for an interior of a refrigerator. The quick chill and quick thaw pan mullion assembly 124 is disposed over a slide-out bottom drawer or pan 122 in the refrigerator compartment, not on the insulated housing of the refrigerator.

In stark contrast to the teachings of the Miozza et al reference, independent claim 14 recites a carrier module located on the insulated housing, the carrier module including a control circuit for controlling the refrigerating capacity of the refrigeration appliance in the inner area depending on a

temperature measuring signal related to the temperature in the inner area, at least one of an operating element for at least one of adjusting an operational parameter of the refrigeration appliance and a display element for displaying an operational parameter of the refrigeration appliance, and at least one illuminating agent for illuminating at least some of the inner area.

As explained above, these features are important for providing a compact, integral arrangement of functional elements on a carrier module that allows assembly of the modules using time-saving large-scale production processes, and then insertion of the carrier module into by which the overall manufacture of a refrigeration appliance can be considerably simplified. In this manner, the present invention can reduce the installation of supply lines for these functional elements through the insulating foam layer, reduce assembly time and manufacturing costs of the refrigeration appliance.

The Miozza et al reference does not disclose or suggest the subject matter defined by independent claim 14.

Independent claim 27 is patentable over the Miozza et al reference for the same reasons.

Additionally, the Miozza et al reference very clearly does not disclose a compartment formed in an upper cover of the insulated housing, and a carrier module located in the insulated housing compartment, as recited in claim 27. As explained above, these features are important for providing a compact, integral arrangement of functional elements on a carrier module that allows assembly of

the modules using time-saving large-scale production processes, and then insertion of the carrier module into by which the overall manufacture of a refrigeration appliance can be considerably simplified. In this manner, the present invention can reduce the installation of supply lines for these functional elements through the insulating foam layer, reduce assembly time and manufacturing costs of the refrigeration appliance.

In stark contrast, the Miozza et al reference merely discloses a quick chill and quick thaw pan mullion assembly 124 for an interior of a refrigerator. The quick chill and quick thaw pan mullion assembly 124 is disposed over a slide-out bottom drawer or pan 122 in the refrigerator compartment, not on the insulated housing of the refrigerator and not in a compartment formed in an upper cover of the insulated housing, as recited in claim 27.

The Miozza et al reference very clearly does not teach all of the features of independent claims 14 and 27.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over by the Miozza et al reference in view of the Bourner reference (US 4,285,391). Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Miozza et al reference in view of the Graf reference (DE 3404256). Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over the Miozza et al reference, the Graf reference, and further in view of the Meuer reference (US 2,206,102). Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Miozza et al reference in view of the Lee at al reference (US 2002/0071903).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As explained above, the Miozza et al reference does not disclose or suggest the subject matter defined by independent claim 14. None of the applied references makes up for the deficiencies of the Miozza reference.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the applied references discloses or suggests the features of the claimed invention including a carrier module located on the insulated housing, the carrier module including a control circuit for controlling the refrigerating capacity of the refrigeration appliance in the inner area depending on a temperature measuring signal related to the temperature in the inner area, at least one of an operating element for at least one of adjusting an operational parameter of the refrigeration appliance and a display element for displaying an operational parameter of the refrigeration appliance, and at least one illuminating agent for illuminating at least some of the inner area, as recited in independent claim 14.

As explained above, these features are important for providing a compact, integral arrangement of functional elements on a carrier module that allows assembly of the modules using time-saving large-scale production processes, and then insertion of the carrier module into by which the overall manufacture of

a refrigeration appliance can be considerably simplified. In this manner, the present invention can reduce the installation of supply lines for these functional elements through the insulating foam layer, reduce assembly time and manufacturing costs of the refrigeration appliance.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 14-27 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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